

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The latest structural alterations in the GDSF are due to reduction in the responsibilities of the Society as decided upon by the SED Central Committee in March 1955. This SED Central Committee decision has only recently been made known to the Society. After the last GDSF Congress, the program of the GDSF was to spread its influence in all spheres of activity by propagating the experiences of the Soviet Union. Now the GDSF's one and only task is to "propagate concrete things from the Soviet Union", above all to describe the land and its people. This decision means that the Society's strongly political character has been taken from it and it has been given the role of a mere cultural organization. Its work now consists of "cultural enlightenment." 25X1
2. Several conferences in the GDSF Central Secretariat were necessary before the correct division of duties could be established and even now there is considerable confusion in the Central Secretariat itself as to what the objects of the Society are. Klaus Willerding, member of the Secretariat responsible for Agitation, declared at a meeting of the GDSF Central Committee on 15 July 1955 that the suggestion for this change in the activities of the Society came from the Soviets. Soviet comrades were of the opinion that generally speaking, political life in the DDR was "over organized" and as a result, a dangerous lassitude had made itself apparent, particularly amongst the functionaries of all organizations. They maintained that drastic reduction in the number of tasks of the organizations would mean that more would be achieved.
3. It is clear that this proposal really did come from the Soviets because the expression "cultural enlightenment" has brought about great confusion in all organizations. While culture is normally taken to embrace literature, music, painting, etc., in the Soviet Union "culture" includes everything "which contributes to a raising of the standard of living" e.g. it also embraces new methods of work.
4. At present the GDSF is concentrating increasingly on the spreading of scientific knowledge which is itself being expanded and promoted in

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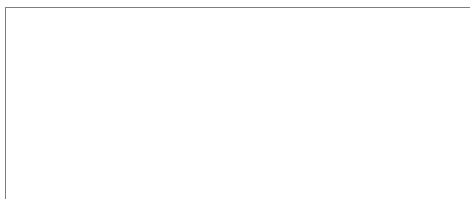
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the DDR. The Society is now taking over practically exclusively the whole system of scientific lecturing in the DDR.



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